



Manchester Public Schools



What's Today's News?

Martin Elementary School...

Update...

November 2014

Submitted by: Hillary Leng, Grade One Teacher and Public Relations Coordinator

Mrs. Colavecchio has been on the lookout for great learning in and out of the classroom! She is observing children following our P.B.I.S. expectations, T.R.I.B.E.S. agreements, and Classroom Constitutions. Already, many children from each grade have joined her during their lunchtime block, being treated to wonderful stories about school learning and friendships!

As we enter the month of November, we find our First Graders in full writing mode! They continue to write "Small Moments" in Writers' Workshop, entering the fantasy world of fiction writing, creating stories from their wild imaginations!

In Math, we continue our path of true/false equations, fact families, and now bundling objects to make ten's and one's. At home, families will also continue to see homework and classroom practice in Fact Fluency, working to achieve fluency through 20. Students can be practicing counting in sequence to 120 and looking at numbers in real life situation to determine the ten's and one's.

In Second Grade, we are winding down on our first units in Math and Writing. The students have been working on small moment personal narrative stories. They have taken a meaningful memory and elaborated on it. In our next unit in Writing we will be focusing on opinion writing. In Math we continue to work on place value and will be working on 2 digit addition and subtraction. Fact fluency and problem solving continue to be stressed throughout all units.

The Third Grade has been working hard in all areas. They are encouraged to READ, WRITE, and WRITE! They have been responding to reading in their Readers' Response Journals, creating narrative writing during



Writers' Workshop, writing in their personal journals, and writing daily with their families. Students are busy learning and practicing multiplication in Math. Reading continues during small groups, read alouds, buddy reading, and independent reading.

In Fourth Grade, students have been working on building independent reading stamina. They are practicing reading strategies to increase comprehension. In particular, students have been writing summaries for stories. Summaries should include who, what, when, where, and why.

During math students are working with multi-digit whole numbers. They have begun practicing the operations of addition and subtraction with regrouping. In the next several weeks we will begin an investigation of multiplication strategies.

In Fifth Grade Reader's Workshop, we are examining Non-fiction text features and how they help us as readers. We will continue to look at different non-fiction sources like magazines, textbooks, articles, and books and learn how to organize the information we find. We will focus our non-fiction topics around units in Science and Social Studies as well.

In Writing, students are working hard to develop their small moments in their narrative writing. Fifth graders are also making their way through the writing process by revising and editing their writing.

We have just begun our unit on Multiplication and Division of whole numbers and decimals. Fifth graders will be using mathematical properties to help make sense of the operations, and will use efficient strategies to find products and quotients.

We are well into the swing of things in the gym. Physical Education students in K-2 are finishing up a pathway unit where they are figuring out how to move in straight, zig-zag, or curved paths. They also experiment on how to move over, under, and through different obstacles. Students in Grades 3-5 are working on their four physical fitness assessments. These tests gauge their fitness levels in the areas of cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, muscular endurance, and flexibility.

Chorus has begun for all 5th graders. This will take place during the school day. Band and Orchestra lessons for 4th and 5th graders have also begun under the direction of Ms. Valenti and Mr. Garrison. In Music class, most grades are focusing on movement and folk dance, with the youngest students working on discovering their singing voices and also participating in a variety of fun movement!

This month in Art, we are finishing up our painting units and moving on to collage. Fourth grade is going to be working on a self-portrait, and Fifth grade will be focusing on the Mola, which is a decorative fabric from South America. All other grades will be creating collages this month!

A busy and exciting learning community here at the Home of the Martin Mustangs and H.O.T. exploration!

